

# O'ahu Bike Guide



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# INTRODUCTION

### Welcome to the Bicycle 'Ohana!

Aloha, the City and County of Honolulu is pleased to provide you the essential skills, tips, and resources that will make your bicycling experience a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding one. With a growing network of bicycle facilities on the island of Oʻahu, more residents and visitors are opting to commute by bike because of the advantages it has with regards to traffic congestion, improving one's health, and the low costs and maintenance of having a fun transportation or recreational option. This guide was created to provide the tools and necessary knowledge to be an effective and safer bicyclist.

#### Ride Akamai and with Aloha

Bicycles are legally considered vehicles on the road. Similar laws apply to bicyclists as to drivers.

#### Remember:

- · Obey traffic laws and signals/signs
- · Ride with traffic, NOT against it
- Ride predictably and defensively
- · Never assume drivers see you or are aware of your intentions
- · Drivers don't always pay attention or follow the law

For your safety, avoid being distracted when riding and be considerate of pedestrians and others using the road. Keep your eyes, ears, and mind on the road. As a bicyclist, you have a kuleana (responsibility) for your safety and the safety of others when you ride. Sharing the road is showing aloha.

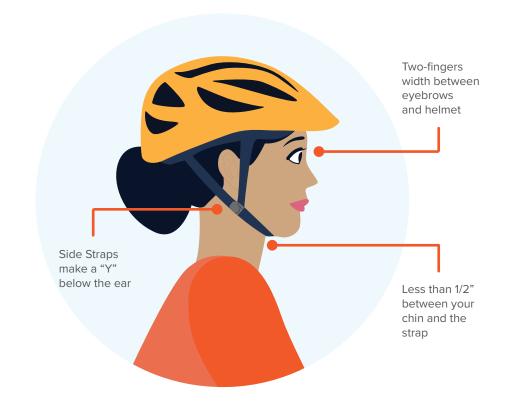
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# **CHAPTER 1**

#### **GETTING STARTED: EQUIPMENT AND QUICK CHECKS**

#### **Helmets**

A properly fitted helmet is an effective option a bicyclist can take in minimizing the likelihood of head injuries and death from collisions. Helmet use can help prevent 85% of all head and brain injuries when worn correctly. It is the law in Hawai'i that everyone under the age of 16 must wear a helmet while bicycling, but the reality is everyone is better protected wearing one, so make sure your helmet fits:



#### **Quick Check ABCs**

- A. **Air Pressure:** make sure your tires are inflated. This will make your ride easier, safer, and helps prevent damage to your tires.
- B. **Brakes:** Make sure your brakes are working. Squeeze your brake levers and make sure the brake pads can successfully stop your wheels. Bike brake pads can also be worn out and will need to be replaced. Brake pad replacements are inexpensive and can easily be replaced at bike shops.
- C. **Chain:** Make sure your chain is running smoothly. Chains should be lubricated, free of rust, and can turn smoothly.



Lastly, make sure the bike fits you comfortably. This means you can comfortably touch the handlebars with your hands and pedals with your feet.

Also consider frame size when choosing a bicycle. Frame sizes vary on the rider's height. A best rule of thumb is when you can straddle the bike with at least 1" clearance between you and the bicycle.



# **Bicycling After Dark**

Be sure to be seen at night even if there are street lights. You may see the motorists but they might not see you. Wear reflective clothing or a safety vest, and avoid wearing dark clothing at night. Honolulu's law requires that bicyclists must use a headlight from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. Rear and side reflectors are also required.



#### **BIYCLCE FACILITIES 101**

# **Green Paint – a bicyclist's favorite color**

Used exclusively for bicycle facilities to increase visibility and reinforce priority to bicycles. It may be used in bike lanes, areas on the road that motorists and bicyclists intersect, and intersection crossing marking.





Picture Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)





# **Signed Route**

"Bike Route" signage helps guide bicyclists along a designated bicycle route, direction changes, and wayfinding.

# **Bike Sharrow/Shared Lane Markings**

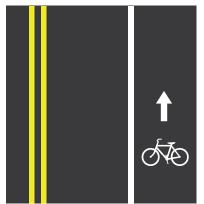
A bike sharrow is a positioning device for bicyclists riding on the road. It is meant to guide bicyclists on where to be on the road and help foster the idea of a shared space with motorists on the road. It also reminds motorists to be cautious and considerate as there is a higher likelihood of bicyclists being on the road.





#### **Bike Lanes**

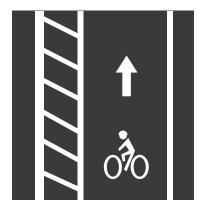
Bike lanes are separated by a white line with bicycle markings and bike lane signs. These lanes allow bicyclists to ride at their preferred speed without keeping up with motor traffic. It encourages predictable behavior and movements between bicyclists and motorists on the road.





#### **Buffered Bike Lanes**

Buffered bike lanes are bike lanes with buffered striped areas that give bicyclists more space away from the adjacent travel/parking lane. This gives bicyclists more breathing room away from motor traffic.







South King Street Protected Bike Lane

# **Protected/Separated Bike Lanes**

Protected bike lanes are bike lanes that are physically separated from traffic. The physical separation can be created by a variety of objects including on-street parking, curbs, planters, and/or plastic delineators. Protected bike lanes can be on the left or right side of the road and can be one-way or two-way direction of travel.

#### **Shared/Multi-Use Paths**

Shared/Multi-Use paths are separated paths/trails that serve people bicycling, walking, and other non-motorized users. Remember to yield to pedestrians and share the path as you would the road!

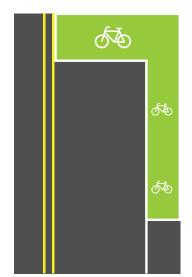
For a list of popular paths on Oʻahu, check out "Chapter 8: Getting around Honolulu and beyond."



Pearl Harbor Bike Path

### **Bike Boxes**

A bike box is an area at a signalized intersection in front of the stop bar for bicyclists to maneuver themselves to the front of the lane when traffic is paused during a red light, in order to make a safe turn and be easily seen by motorists. **REMEMBER:** bicyclists must still follow traffic laws and signals when using a bike box. Only use a bike box when you approach an intersection at a red light; make sure the driver of a motor vehicle sees you and is at a complete stop before maneuvering.





Bike box on intersection of McCully St. and Kapiolani Blvd.

# **Two-stage Turn Queue Box**

A two-stage turn queue box offers bicyclists a guided way to make left turns into multi-lane signalized intersections from a bike lane by highlighting a boxed area on the opposing intersection for bicyclists to connect to and then proceed to make the turn when it is safe and their turn to do so.



Picture Source: NACTO



Example of a two-stage turn queue box on the intersection of South Street and Pohukaina Street.

# **Bike Racks/ Bike Parking**

Bicycle racks are installed on sidewalks and outside private buildings to provide short-term parking for bicycles. Bicycle racks come in different shapes, sizes, and color. These public racks are NOT meant to be long-term parking – meaning parking here for an extended amount of time will subject your bicycle to theft and removal. Do not park your bike on objects that are not meant for bike parking (like utility/sign posts or railings to name a few). Be sure to properly lock your bike (see Chapter 5: Parking your bicycle and preventing theft) for more details and tips.





#### **BICYCLING BASICS: SAFETY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES**

# **Hand Signals**

To ride in a predictable manner, it is essential to notify motorists of your intentions. To make your intentions clear, make use of hand signals while riding. This will help motorists and other bicyclists anticipate your intended movements and reduce the chance of collisions.



**Left Turn:** Left hand and arm extended horizontally beyond size of the bicycle Right Turn: Right hand and arm extended horizontally to the right hand side of the bicycle OR left arm extended upward and hand raised, as shown above.

Stop or Sudden
Decrease in Speed:
Left hand and arm
extended downward
beyond the side of
the bicycle.

**Stay in Control:** Bicyclists should make sure hands are in control of equipment at all times (including brakes) as a condition to using hand signals. Bicyclists need not signal if doing so interferes with your safety and control of the bike.





# **Respecting Traffic Signals and Signs**

It is the law that all bicyclists must obey all traffic signals and signs as if you are a motor vehicle. Keep in mind, that when you obey all signals and signs, your ride is going to be safer and predictable.

Some bicycle lanes have traffic signals made especially for bicyclists. A few bicycle signals are accompanied by a pavement marking and imbedded sensor. Place your bicycle over the marking to trigger sensor that calls the signal.

# **Ride Predictably and Defensively**

Never assume that a motorists sees you or is aware of your intentions. Ride in the direction of traffic if you are riding on the road. Make sure to signal your intentions using your hands and make eye contact with drivers. This makes it easier for drivers to predict your behavior. Just because you can see the motorist doesn't mean they can see you. Remember to ride defensively, meaning you are cautious, putting your safety first, and alert for all vehicles on the road. Do not depend on motorists to follow the rules or yield for you. Be prepared to react and ride at manageable speeds. The faster you are, the harder it may be for motorists to see you or for you to react.

# **Riding on Bicycle Lanes**

Bicyclists are legally required to use bicycle lanes where available, especially when traveling slower than the speed of traffic. However, keep in mind that every bicyclist has a different skill level. Remember to show aloha and share the bike lane appropriately.

**REMEMBER:** Be aware and considerate of other bicyclists in a bike lane. Ride to the right of the bike lane to allow faster cyclists to pass. Slow down if you are approaching another bicyclist who is riding slower and make your intentions known by giving a polite alert (verbally "on your left," or "excuse me"; ring your bell) before passing.

# Riding on the Sidewalk

Honolulu's law does NOT permit sidewalk riding within a business district. A business district is an area with buildings in use for business (such as shops, restaurants, hotels, banks, or civic buildings). A good example of this would be Downtown Honolulu, an area with businesses and high pedestrian traffic. Special districts like Waikīkī also do not allow sidewalk riding. When riding on the sidewalk away from a business district, always yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking them. Slow down and watch out for objects on the sidewalk (like sign posts). Always be alert for driveways and intersections where motorists are usually driving into or exiting from. Most of the time, they may not see you or are aware of you as they are busy looking for other cars or pedestrians.

**REMEMBER:** Ride at 10 miles per hour or less (think jogging-walking pace) and pay attention to your surroundings. Do not ride a bicycle on sidewalks where official signs prohibit it.

# Yield to Pedestrians and Mobility/Visually Impaired Persons

Always yield to pedestrians, especially on shared use paths, sidewalks, and crosswalks. Pedestrians often don't hear a bicyclist behind them and get startled by bicyclists passing them. Make sure to make an audible signal before passing a pedestrian. Ride with predictability and consideration for people who are mobility or visually impaired.







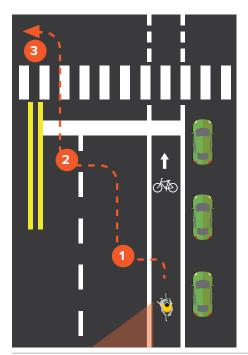
### **Riding on the Street: Intersections**

Riding through intersections can be challenging if you lack experience on the road or on bike lanes. When approaching an intersection, always be alert for lane markings, traffic signals/signs, and what other motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists are doing. When riding straight through an intersection, position yourself in the middle of the lane to prevent vehicles turning right from overtaking you.



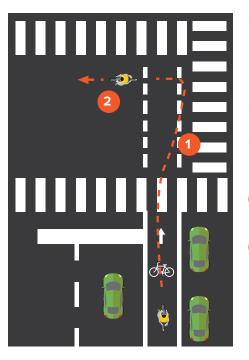
**Straight through:** Bicyclists should stay out of right turn only lanes when their intent is to ride straight through an intersection. Riding through intersections from right-turn only lanes puts bicyclists at risk of getting hit by cars.

**Right Turns:** When making a right turn, stop at stop signs or stop just before turning on red at traffic lights (when it is not prohibited by signs). Yield to traffic approaching from the left, including pedestrians.



Left Turns: On the approach to the intersection, look around for cars and signal to make sure drivers know your intentions. Always try to make eye contact with nearby drivers. When it is safe to change lanes, position yourself in the proper lane and in the center of the lane to avoid vehicles passing you while you make your turn.

- Look and double-check for oncoming cars. Signal with your hands.
- When it is safe, carefully move into the left-hand lane.
- Complete your turn like any other vehicle.



Left Turns – pedestrian style: Turn with pedestrian traffic alongside a crosswalk if you are uncomfortable changing lanes. Be alert of cars crossing the intersection and pedestrians using the crosswalk. Keep in mind that sometimes pedestrians may not be crossing within a crosswalk.

- 1 Pull over in front of the crosswalk and out of through traffic.
- Wait for the green light and then move ahead.



Pay attention to your surroundings before merging or passing

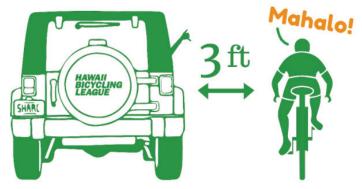
# **Passing: When changing lanes**

Be sure to look behind you and ensure that no traffic is coming. Pay attention in front of you when you pass or change lanes because the car may suddenly brake, slow down, or change lanes too. Use extreme caution when executing this maneuver and make sure to stay out of the motorist's blind spot, especially at locations where a motorists turns right across your path. Never assume that a motorists sees you or is aware of your intentions. Use hand signals to alert drivers that you are turning, slowing down, or stopping.

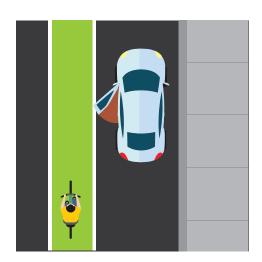


# When a car passes you...

Hawai'i has a safe passing law that requires motorists to provide a minimum of 3 feet of separation when passing a bicyclist. As a bicyclists, keep calm when motorists zoom pass you. Despite the law, not every motorist is considerate. Don't provoke the motorist. If you know a vehicle is trying to pass you, give the driver extra space by moving to the right or stop somewhere safe until the motorists passes. ALWAYS pay attention to your surroundings.



Graphic created by Hawai'i Bicycling League



#### **Avoid the Door Zone**

Be alert to parked cars that may open doors suddenly in front of you. Keep at least 3 feet distance from parked cars when you are not on a bike lane. Even when you are in a bike lane, people getting out of cars may not be looking for you.





#### **Distractions**

Pay attention to your surroundings, especially when crossing intersections and driveways. Distracted riding endangers your life and everyone. Refrain from looking at your smart devices, having conversations, and/or wearing headphones.

# **CHAPTER 4**

#### IMPORTANT BICYCLE LAWS TO REMEMBER



# Riding on Bicycles (Sec. 291C-143)

The bicyclist must ride on the permanent, regular seat attached to the bicycle. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it was designed and equipped.

# **Bicycle Helmets (Sec. 291C-150)**

No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a bicycle on a street, bikeway, or any other public property unless that person is wearing a

properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. This requirement also applies to a person who rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat that is attached to the bicycle or who rides in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

### **Obedience to Traffic Controls (Sec. 15-18.3)**

Bicyclists must obey the instructions of official traffic control signs, signals, and other devices, unless otherwise directed by a police officer or other person authorized to direct traffic.

Bicyclists must obey posted "U" turn signs unless they dismount, in which event they must obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

Bicycle lanes are reserved exclusively for bicycles, but pedestrians may use the lanes when no paved sidewalks are provided. Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in bicycle lanes.

# Riding on Sidewalks in Waikīkī. (Sec. 15-4.6c)

No person shall ride a bicycle, skateboard, or roller skate upon any sidewalk in Waikīkī.

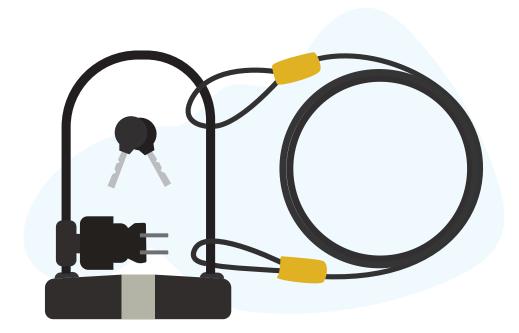
For a full complete list of bicycle laws, please visit <a href="http://www.honolulu.gov/bicycle-bicycle-ducation/bicycle-rulesofroad.html">http://www.honolulu.gov/bicycle-bicycle-ducation/bicycle-rulesofroad.html</a>

#### PARKING YOUR BICYCLE AND PREVENTING THEFT

# **Getting the Right Lock**

Bicycle locks come in different types of material, security level, and quality. Keep in mind, that locks are not theft proof. It is up to you to lock your bike right and keep it safe.

Generally, bike locks come in varieties in the form of cables, chains, folding, U-shaped locks, or a combination of these varieties. Each type of lock has their advantages and disadvantages. Using U-locks with a combination of one other lock provides better protection compared to just a cable lock (which can easily be cut depending on the material).





Some bikes have quick releases which lets you remove your front wheel, so you can lock them together with your other wheel.



Locking just your front wheel leaves the rest of your bike to theft!



You can use another lock (ideally two U-locks) to lock both your wheels for better protection if your bike wheel does not have a quick release.



Locking just your frame leaves both your wheels exposed to theft!



Lock both your frame and rear wheel with a U-lock first, and sometimes some U-locks come with a cable you can link your front wheel with.



Using just a cable lock means an easier time for the thief to cut and leave with your bike!

# **Better Way to Lock your Bike**

When locking your bike, remember the most important part of your bike to lock first, your frame! The frame of your bike should be locked to the bike rack and then your rear wheel. If you have another lock, be sure to lock the other wheel too so your bike won't be a unicycle when you come back to it later.

# Register your Bike

Registering your bike keeps a record of the type, serial number, and license plate of your specific bicycle. This makes it easier to track down your bike if it is lost or stolen. Note, if your bike was stolen or lost, contact the Honolulu Police Department Records/Evidence Room at (808) 723-3270.



All bicycles with two tandem

wheels, twenty (20) inches or more in diameter, are required to be registered and shall be subject to a permanent registration fee of \$15 to be paid by the owners thereof to the City Budget and Fiscal Director. After payment of the fee, the owner will be provided with a decal to be attached to the bicycle. The decal is to be placed on the frame's seat tube facing the forward direction. This is essential for your bike to be tracked if it was found or stolen. You can register your bike in the following ways:

Bicycles can be registered or transferred at Satellite City Halls, or by mail. Forms, except for the Bicycle Registration Form, are also available online. Bicycle registration is managed and administered by the Department of Customer Services (CSD). Please call (808) 768-2540 for further information. Upon successful registration, you will receive an official registration certificate in the mail. Remember to keep that registration in a safe place.

# **Motor Vehicle Control / Bicycle Registration**

P.O. Box 30350

Honolulu, HI 96820-0350 Telephone: (808) 768-2540

Or visit

http://www.honolulu.gov/bicycle/bicycleeducation/bicycle-registration.html/

# **CHAPTER 6**

#### PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS AND BIKE SHARE



# Introduction: Commuting by Bike is Easier with Public Transit

Commuting farther is so easy when you combine public transit with your bike ride. Honolulu's TheBus can take you almost anywhere on the island. Ride with ease as all city buses are equipped with bike racks at the front of the vehicle. Let TheBus transport you and your bike to your next adventure!

# City's TheBus Bike Rack System and Guidelines

(Credit: photos and contents from TheBus.org)

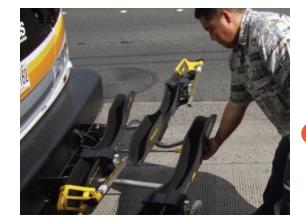
Keep in mind the procedures and types of bikes allowed on bus bike rack:

- ONLY single seat, two-wheeled bikes of standard size that conform to the bike rack specifications are allowed on TheBus.
- Tandem, stretched out, or custom bikes and bikes with oversized wheels, three or more wheels, trailers, or those powered by gasoline engines will NOT BE ALLOWED on TheBus.
- NOTE not all bikes will fit in the TheBus bike rack. Most bus racks will have
  a maximum tire width from 2.35" 3" (depending on the bus model) and a
  maximum wheel diameter of 29 inches.
- Electric bikes with a sealed battery compartment which conform to the bike rack specifications and other safety issues are allowed.
- Bikes with child seats, saddle bags, or accessories that block the driver's vision or headlights and large handlebars that touch the windshield or interfere with the wiper function WILL NOT BE ALLOWED on TheBus.

#### **Bikes inside TheBus:**

 Bikes are not allowed inside TheBus unless they can be collapsed and be placed on your lap or under a seat without interfering with other passengers. These types of bikes are primarily foldable or collapsible bikes (as seen in the picture).



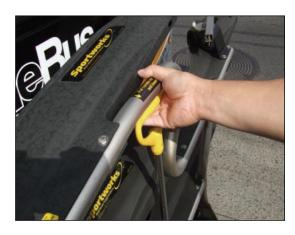


2 Lower the bike rack with one hand while you hold the bike with the other hand.

#### How to Use the Bike Rack:

Important Safety Reminders When Loading your Bike:

- When waiting to load a bike, ALWAYS remain on the curb until TheBus has come to a complete stop.
- ALWAYS be sure TheBus operator acknowledges and sees you before you step in front of TheBus.
- NEVER approach TheBus from the street side because the operator may not see you which could result in a serious accident.



Squeeze the handle up to release the latch.



3 Lift your bike onto the bike rack, fitting the wheels into the proper wheel slots.



For all steel racks, pull the support arm out and over the front tire. The support arm hook should rest beyond the highest point of the tire closest to the frame. For composite racks, push down on the yellow button to raise the support arm over the front tire. The support arm grip should rest beyond the highest point on the tire closet to the frame.

### Important Safety Reminders When Unloading your Bike:

- Upon exiting TheBus via the front or rear door, ALWAYS advise the operator that you will be removing your bike.
- Before stepping in front of the bus, wave to re-inform the operator that you will be stepping in front of TheBus.
- ALWAYS go to the nearest curbside. NEVER cross in front of TheBus to the street side as passing traffic cannot see you.



1 Raise the support arm off the tire. The support arm automatically folds down to a secure position.



2 Lift your bike out of the bike rack.



Squeeze the handle and fold up the bike rack if there are no bikes on the rack and no one else is waiting to load a bike. The bike rack locks in place with a snap so you know that it is secure. Acknowledge the bus driver with a wave or shaka after you have completed your unloading and have safely stepped back to the curbside sidewalk. This lets the driver know you have nothing else to unload and can proceed with their route.





### **Honolulu Rail Transit**

Get around from one side of the island to the other with Rail! Honolulu's rail stations will have bicycle racks and other storage options provided near station entrances. Bicycles will be permitted on trains.



#### Bike Share: Public Bikes to Rent

Need a bike for short term use? Take a Biki! Biki is a local bikeshare system with many conveniently located self-service stations throughout Honolulu. Biki bikes are designed to be easy to maneuver, comfortable and fun to ride, while accommodating riders of all sizes. Just find a station, pay, unlock the bike, ride, and return at any Biki station\* when you are finished riding.

\*To find a station near you or see different bike price plans available, gobiki.org/

#### THE BIKE 'OHANA: EVENTS AND COMMUNITY RIDES

# Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL)

Whether you're looking for more bike education/tips, people to bike with, or events to participate/volunteer at, the Hawai'i Bicycling League is the central hub and largest 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Hawai'i for bicyclists. HBL was founded to enable more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation through advocacy, education, and events.

HBL receives grants from the City & County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services to hold educational workshops and presentations. These include the BikeEd program to teach 4th graders, workshops for all ages, and presentations on sharing the road with all users. Not just a source for education and events, you can also find bike route maps, other affiliated organizations, and bike shops/repairs recommendations on their website!





# **CHAPTER 8**

#### **GETTING AROUND HONOLULU AND BEYOND**

The island of O'ahu has many bike paths and great riding routes that would make your biking experience an enjoyable and convenient one. You can find a complete interactive map of these locations and many others by visiting:

http://www.honolulu.gov/bicycle.html and selecting the "Bikeway Map" tab!

Oahu Bikeways Map



# Some Popular Bike Paths

- 1) Pearl Harbor Bike Path
- 2) West Loch Bike Path
- 3) Ala Moana Beach Park Bikeway
- 4) Date Street Bike Path
- 5) Kapahulu-Pākī Ave Bike Path
- 6) Ke Ala Pūpūkea Bikeway
- 7) Kailua Beach Park Bikeway
- 8) Waialua Beach Road Bike Path

# **Some Popular Separated/Protected Bike Lanes**

(two-way bike lanes with buffers and minor traffic barriers that separate from motor traffic\*)

- 1) S. King Street
- 2) South Street
- 3) Pensacola Street
- 4) Ward Avenue Separated Bike Lane (one-way on opposite sides)

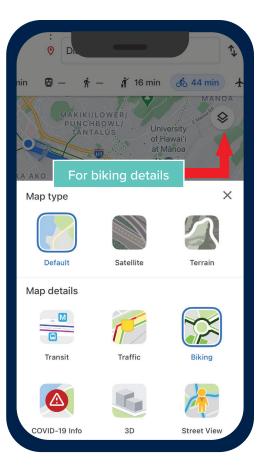
\*REMEMBER: buffers and barriers are meant to help guide motor traffic away from bike lanes. This does NOT mean bicyclists are totally "protected." Ride with caution and be alert!



# **Google Maps: Bike Route Options**

Google Maps gives you options to select a bicycle route that best fits where you want to go and where you are! Not only will Google show you how best and how long it'll take to get to your commute by bike, there is also an option to view possible bike paths, routes, and different bike facilities in your area\*.

\*REMEMBER: Plan accordingly and ride safely. Avoid distractions by NOT viewing your smart device while riding your bike. Stop at a safe area and check it there instead.



#### **ESSENTIAL RESOURCES**

# **Emergencies: Dial 911**

Report a crash or Dangerous Driver: 911 (have license #, car color/model, time, and location ready)

#### **Transit Services:**

TheBus: 808-848-5555 / THEBUS.org

#### Bike rental/Bikeshare:

Biki

gobiki.org or 1-888-340-2454 email: support@gobiki.org

### **Bicycle Registration/Bicycle Theft:**

808-733-2540 (Department of Customer Services)

#### **Bikeway issues:**

Report potholes, fallen signs/ delineators, road hazards, suggest bike rack installation or etc. 808-768-7777 or download the Honolulu 311 App through your phone app store.

#### More online information:

Be part of Honolulu's biking community by visiting these great online sources for more information, stores, repairs, educational programs, organizations, and much more:

# City and County of Honolulu Bicycle Program

(Government source for bike projects and FAQs)

**NOTES** 

- http://www.honolulu.gov/bicycle.html
- https://www.facebook.com/ HonoluluBicycleProgram/

#### **Bike Share**

https://gobiki.org/

#### Hawai'i Bicycling League

(Non-profit community, advocacy, and events organization)

https://www.hbl.org/ https://www.facebook.com/hblridealoha/

### Oʻahu Bike Map

https://www.hbl.org/oahubikemap/

#### **Suggested Rides**

https://hbl.org/lets-ride/

### **Workshops and Education**

https://hbl.org/learn/workshopspresentations/

#### **Bicycle Donations**

https://hbl.org/support/#in-kind


#### References:

"Sharing the Road: A Guide to Safe Bicycling in Hawaii" by AAA Hawaii,

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